

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SY-05 VO-03 SCS-03 PPT-01 /022 W

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FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4048

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, CGEN, XA

SUBJECT: CONSULAR CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI, SEPT 27-30, 1976

REF: STATE 170008

1. FSO-5 KEITH L. WAUCHOPE WILL REPRESENT THE CONGEN AT THE CONSULAR CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI SEPT. 27 TO 30. AMONG OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES, WAUCHOPE IS THE SOLE CONSULAR OFFICER. HE HAS BEEN AT POST FOR ONE YEAR AND WILL REMAIN AT POST FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 MONTHS AFTER THE CONFERENCE.

2. CONSOFF WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS PROTECTION CASES DURING CRISIS SITUATIONS. ERITREA HAS BEEN UNDER MARTIAL LAW SINCE FEBRUARY 1975, AND THERE IS AN ACTIVE INSURGENCY IN THE REGION. THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO RAPID SHIFTS IN POLITICAL ORIENTATION AND THERE HAS BEEN A CONCURRENTLY RAPID TURNOVER IN THE ETHIOPIAN BUREAUCRACY. THIS SITUATION POSES MAJOR PROBLEMS IN PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND PROPERTY OF THE AMERICANS REMAINING IN ERITREA. THESE RIGHTS INCLUDE TREATY RIGHTS GRANTED BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT OF 1953, AND THE RIGHTS OF AMERICANS TO LIVE AND TRAVEL WITHIN THE REGION. PRIVATE AMERICANS FREQUENTLY REQUIRE CONGEN INTERVENTION TO EFFECT THE MOST RUDIMENTARY FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT. SUCH INTERVENTION MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNCERTAINTY AND LATENT HOSTILITY, AND ONE IN WHICH THE RULING MILITARY AUTHORITIES GENERALLY HAVE NO CONCEPT OF NORMAL CONSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES OR RIGHTS.

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THESE PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONSTITUTE THE GREATEST SINGLE CONSULAR

PROBLEM FOR THE CONGEN.
SLUTZ

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